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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED 1ST OCTOBER, 1864.]

SESSION 1863-4.

Thirteenth Meeting, June 13th, 1864.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Edward Webster, Esq.; Charles H. Allen, Esq.; Thomas Ogilvy, Esq.; Edward Warner, Esq., M.P.; Lord Belmore; E. C. Lowndes, Esq.; F. F. Joyes, Esq.; G. Gladstone, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*Edward Bellamy, Esq.; William Field Ives, Esq.; Alexander Mackinnon, Jun., Esq.; Edward O'Riley, Esq., F.R.S.; Captain Henry Toynbee.*

ACCESSIONS TO LIBRARY.—‘*Explorations in Australia*,’ by J. McDouall Stuart; edited by William Hardman, M.A.; 3 copies presented by Messrs. Saunders and Otley. ‘*Bulletin de la Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale*,’ Mars, 1864. Continuations of Transactions of various Societies, &c.

ACCESSIONS TO MAP-ROOM.—Photograph of the North Atlantic Telegraph Expedition, 1860.—Vale of Brallilid, South Greenland.—Government Maps of the Kingdom of Denmark; 55-inch; complete up to date of presentation.—Seat of War in America, near Richmond (2nd edition), from the Topographical Dépôt.—Continuation of the Ordnance Maps and Admiralty Charts.

The first Paper read was—

1. *On the Travels of Portuguese and others in Inner Africa.*

By W. D. COOLEY.

THE object of the Paper was to propound the views of the author, formed on a careful examination and comparison of the reports of various travellers, on the position of the rivers, lakes, and places

in Inner Southern Africa. The accounts of several Portuguese travellers were passed in review; and the author contended that their itineraries were so full and their various accounts so accordant, that, notwithstanding the paucity of their astronomical observations, the geographical information they imparted was quite reliable, and ought not to be set aside, as had been done in the construction of modern maps. The subject was argued with much learning, and a large map was exhibited to illustrate the views of the author. Some of the more striking points of difference between this map and the recent ones of Livingstone were the total separation of the rivers Liambeji and Zambesi (the upper and lower courses of the Zambesi) and the release of their affluents from the system of inosculation which, in recent maps, bind all those rivers together; and the north-west direction of Lake Nyassa, which was made continuous with Tanganyika, forming an elongated lake, called *Ñanja mucúro*.

The PRESIDENT said, Mr. Cooley was a distinguished critical geographer, who had spent his life in elaborating from many sources, particularly from those Portuguese travellers who have preceded our own, a vast variety of information. The present paper had been so recently communicated that he had not had time to read it through; but, finding that the observations were of a critical nature, and that they bore to a great extent upon the accuracy of Dr. Livingstone's observations, he thought it right that the criticisms should be read first, and that Dr. Livingstone's simple account of his last exploration along Lake Nyassa, which he had undertaken of his own accord, should come afterwards; and then, that gentlemen who were more or less acquainted with the country should discuss the papers afterwards. He wished the subject to be fairly discussed, and that all deference should be shown to Mr. Cooley's powers as a critical geographer, for he was sure the Society desired to do justice to every man, whatever his labours might be, whether in critical geography or in actual observation.

Mr. MARKHAM then read the following :—

2. *Letters from the Zambesi to Sir R. I. Murchison, and (the late) Admiral Washington.* By DAVID LIVINGSTONE, M.D., LL.D.

THESE letters comprised a narrative of Dr. Livingstone's last journey into the interior. The despatch containing instructions for the withdrawal of his expedition did not reach him until the 2nd of July, 1863, when the waters of the Zambesi had fallen too low for the *Pioneer* to be taken down to the sea. To improve the time, therefore, until the flood of December, Dr. Livingstone set forth, accompanied by the steward of the vessel, to finish the exploration of Lake Nyassa, and more particularly to decide whether a large river entered its northern extremity. The wreck of his boat in the rapids of the Shiré forced him to abandon the attempt to sail round